



Testimony to the Appropriations Committee
February 15, 2013
By Leslie Simoes, Executive Director

Testimony: H.B. No. 1023 AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE RETENTION BY
NONPROFIT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDERS

The Arc Connecticut is a 60-year old advocacy organization committed to protecting the basic civil basic rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and to promoting opportunities for their full inclusion in the life of their communities. We have 18 chapters across Connecticut providing direct support and services. We rose from grass roots advocacy and have hundreds of families and individuals with disabilities in our Arc family.

Our 18 chapters and associate member chapters provide the supports nessicarry for individuals with I/DD and their families to live full lives but without the adequate resources, fully supporting individuals and families will not be possible. The continued underfunding and slow starvation of this support system is often painful for all who rely on and who provide these services.

Revenue retention is essential because nonprofit businesses like The Arc's across the state must conserve wherever possible to meet the fiscal challenges of chronic underfunding. Providing that our chapter's contractual obligations to the State have been met, it makes sense that agencies are permitted to retain the dollars given to them to provide the service. Private providers have been struggling for years to maintain levels of support families and individuals with I/DD desperately need and this bill will go a long way to assisting them.

Under cost-settlement rules Connecticut reclaims monies resulting from efficient operations at the end of the year. Unless the state allows these agencies to retain dollars from efficient operations, Connecticut will risk losing family centered providers like our Arc agencies. And in the long run, the State will spend more to replace these services than it pays now.

Every legislator has a DDS funded agency in their district. This is statewide systemic issue that crosses all socioeconomic, gender, race and geographic boundaries. Private providers are businesses employing hundreds of people in your towns. Employees, individuals and families buying gas, buying food, paying taxes. If providers of these services are not allowed to be resourceful we will all loose.

You will hear testimony today from many Arc agencies and non-Arc agencies about the specific details of underfunding, unfunded mandates and the ability for providers in the state

to maintain small businesses in the state of Connecticut. Please vote favorably on HB 1023 AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE RETENTION BY NONPROFIT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDERS. Allowing nonprofit providers who are in compliance with state contractual provisions and regulatory standards to retain contracted amounts from the state to enhance their fiscal health and stability will be a large step forward to promoting the basic civil rights of individuals with I/DD and their families through strong provider agencies willing to do work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, for clarification or to arrange a visit with a private provider of community based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in your area. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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